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Too often, New Jersey taxpayers wake up to read about another public official abusing their office at taxpayers' expense. Unfortunately, there is no shortage of outrageous examples of waste, fraud and abuse in government.

With all the problems our middle-class families, seniors and small businesses currently face, the last thing our state can afford is more public corruption. At times like these, the conviction of former local officials, like Assemblyman Daniel Van Pelt and Ocean County Democratic Chairman Al Santoro, has an even greater impact on our community.

Thankfully, because of a tough new law on New Jersey's books, we know these corrupt officials will go to jail and they will never earn another nickel toward their taxpayer-funded pensions for abusing their office.

While serving in the state Senate, I authored a law to help New Jersey deal with its corruption problem. The tough common-sense measure imposed mandatory prison terms and pension forfeiture for public officials. I introduced this law to save New Jersey taxpayers money and, hopefully, prevent more public officials from abusing their office.

Similar legislation is needed at the federal level. According to a recent Department of Justice report, more than 9,350 federal public officials have been convicted of corruption or a related offense over the past two decades.

Worst of all, under current law, many of these federal employees and public officials convicted of corruption can still receive their pension. Analysis by my office estimates that between 1999 and 2008 the federal government paid more than \$573 million in pension payments to public officials convicted of felonies connected to their office duties. This is outrageous and simply unacceptable.

When I was elected to Congress, I introduced a new, bipartisan bill that would strip federal pensions from any federal employee or public official convicted of abusing their job or office. If my bill is passed, any politician or public servant found guilty of offenses such as bribery, extortion, money laundering or official misconduct will go to jail and lose their pension.

While many bills have been introduced to curb corruption, my bill is the only one that would save taxpayer money by going after the pensions of corrupt officials and bureaucrats. My law has given New Jersey the tools to cut waste out of its budget and it can help our federal government be more careful with our taxpayer dollars, too.

As our country struggles with high unemployment and a runaway federal deficit, we can't afford to finance the retirement of convicted felons. Washington is truly out of touch when it can let retirement savings be wiped out by reckless Wall Street gambles, and turn a blind eye to a retirement plan for corrupt politicians and bureaucrats.

Congressional leaders need to hear from you about how tired you are of paying for corruption in our government. By visiting my website, [www.adler.house.gov](http://www.adler.house.gov), you can sign my petition to push Washington to stop wasting our money on government officials who betrayed the public trust. Together, we can force Congress to get serious about reducing our deficit, cutting out-of-control spending and ending politics as usual.

### Additional Facts

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